

It's Maidstone

BLUES MUST BEAT GUY

WYCOMBE'S current misfortunes continued yesterday when they were given one of the most potentially difficult ties in the first round of the FA Cup — away to Maidstone United of the Southern League on November 25.

One man Wycombe must beat if they are to get through to the second round is Dickie Guy, who became an FA Cup hero when saving a penalty for Wimbledon against Leeds four years ago.

Guy is one of three members of that Wimbledon side, currently playing for Maidstone who are rated one of the best teams in the Southern League. At present they stand in fifth position with games in hand over all but the leaders Worcester City. They finished third last year.

The other two Wimbledon stars are full-back Billy Edwards and Glenn Aitken a talented mid-field player.

Leading scorer is Brian Gregory with 15 goals, while their centre-forward is the former Norwich, Reading and Southend striker Peter Sylvester who has just come back from playing for Washington in America.

Long run

In contrast to Wycombe, who have been exempt until this stage, Maidstone have had a long five-match run to reach the first round.

It all started back in mid September when they defeated Horsham YMCA 2-0 in the first qualifying round.

They needed two matches to dispose of Dover and have since overcome Ramsgate (3-1) and Waterlooville (2-0), both away from home.

Maidstone have really improved their status since they left the Isthmian League at the end of the 1969/70 season and will prove a hard nut to crack.

Blues boss Andy Williams agrees. "It's not a particularly glamorous tie is it?" he said. "It will be a very difficult tie especially as the Southern League clubs have had the upper hand against the Isthmians this season."

It is a pretty dull draw in general with many non-league sides being paired together. The few exceptions see Hitchen travel to Bournemouth and Hillingdon go to Watford. One non-league side at home are Gravesend who entertain Wimbledon.